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Thirteenth meeting of chairpersons
of the human rights treaty bodies
Geneva, 18-22 June 2001

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The thirteenth meeting of chairpersons of the human rights treaty bodies will be held from 18 to 22 June 2001, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 49/178 of 23 December 1994, in which the Secretary-General was requested to finance, as of 1995, annual meetings of the chairpersons. Prior to their meeting in 1995, the chairpersons had met for the first time in 1984 and biannually from 1988 until 1994.

2. The present document, which was prepared in consultation with the chairpersons, contains the provisional agenda for their thirteenth meeting and annotations relating thereto.

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PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting and election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda.

3. Organizational and other matters.

4. Review of recent developments relating to the work of the treaty bodies.

5. Status of the Annual Appeal 2001 of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and of the Plans of Action:

   (a) For Strengthening the Implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;

   (b) For Strengthening the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

   (c) For Strengthening the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

6. National-level implementation of treaty body recommendations.

7. Strengthening support to and enhancing the effectiveness of the treaty bodies.

8. Informal consultations with States.

9. Joint meeting with the eighth meeting of special rapporteurs/representatives, experts and chairpersons of working groups of the special procedures of the Commission on Human Rights.

10. Adoption of the report and setting of dates for the fourteenth meeting of chairpersons.

ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1. Opening of the meeting and election of officers

The meeting will convene at the United Nations Office at Geneva on Monday, 18 June 2001, at 10 a.m. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the meeting will be elected.

Item 2. Adoption of the agenda

The meeting will adopt its agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda contained in the present document.

Item 3. Organizational and other matters

Under this agenda item, the meeting will consider and adopt a programme of work.

Item 4. Review of recent developments relating to the work of the treaty bodies

Under this agenda item, the chairpersons will have an opportunity to update the meeting on the undertakings of the treaty bodies on which they serve, as well as discuss general developments relating to their work. The chairpersons will also be updated on the status of preparations for the 2001 World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance by the secretariat of the World Conference and they may wish to exchange information on the contributions of the treaty bodies to that process. A presentation will be made on the recent developments relating to State responsibilities for the conduct of businesses that affect human rights by the Special Adviser to the High Commissioner on business and human rights. Other recent developments of interest to the treaty bodies may also be discussed under this item.

Item 5. Status of the 2001 Annual Appeal of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and of the Plans of Action:

(a) For Strengthening the Implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;

(b) For Strengthening the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

(c) For Strengthening the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The chairpersons will have an opportunity to review the status of the above three plans of action, launched to secure additional funding for the treaty bodies. In that context, a presentation will be given on the status of contributions to the 2001 Annual Appeal of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, through which fund-raising for the plans

of action takes place. The chairpersons will also have an opportunity to review the specific activities that have been undertaken under these plans since their last meeting in June 2000, as well as consider what activities should be undertaken in the year ahead. The Plan of Action for Strengthening the Implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (HRI/MC/2000/4) and the 2001 Annual Appeal will be before the chairpersons. The report of the secretariat on follow-up to the twelfth meeting (HRI/MC/2001/2) will contain information on the status of the Plans of Action for Strengthening the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Item 6. National-level implementation of treaty body recommendations

Under this item, United Nations departments, specialized agencies, funds, programmes and mechanisms, national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations that work with the treaty bodies are requested to provide information on how treaty body recommendations are being followed up at the national level. Concrete examples would be useful for this discussion.

Item 7. Strengthening support to and enhancing the effectiveness of the treaty bodies

Under this agenda item, the chairpersons will be able to engage in a discussion with members of the Bureau of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Human Rights and members of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights on issues of common concern and interest, in accordance with the practice established at previous meetings. The matters to be discussed may include the deliberations of the Commission and any decisions taken on the subject of the treaty bodies. In addition, recent initiatives undertaken for the improvement of the treaty system may also be discussed.

Item 8. Informal consultation with States

Pursuant to a decision taken at their twelfth meeting, the chairpersons will devote a full day to a discussion with representatives of States on the functioning of the treaty bodies. The following is proposed as a possible agenda:

(a) Introductory statements by each chairperson;

(b) Status of the treaty bodies in respect of major United Nations events;

(c) Strengthening support to and enhancing the effectiveness of the treaty bodies.

Item 9. Joint meeting with the eighth meeting of special rapporteurs/representatives, experts and chairpersons of working groups of the special procedures of the Commission on Human Rights and of the advisory services programme

Pursuant to a recommendation of the joint meeting held during the twelfth meeting of chairpersons in 2000, the chairpersons will meet with the special rapporteurs/representatives, experts and chairpersons of working groups of the Commission on Human Rights and of the

advisory services programme, convened for their eighth meeting, to enable the two groups of experts to coordinate their activities and discuss matters of mutual concern. The present joint meeting will focus on the issue of follow-up, in accordance with a decision reached at their last joint meeting. It will allow for an exchange of best practices in the area of follow-up to concluding observations, decisions and opinions on individual cases and follow-up to recommendations made by special rapporteurs which could be beneficial to both sets of mechanisms.

Item 10. Adoption of the report and setting of dates for the fourteenth meeting of chairpersons

The chairpersons will adopt a report on their meeting, including conclusions and recommendations, to be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 55/90.

In addition, the chairpersons will determine the dates of their fourteenth meeting, to be held in 2002.